

I am very pleased to see that Secretary Richardson is taking this initiative both with regard to the peaceful uses of energy as well as on the nuclear power issue and what might happen in terms of our national security interests. I think this is a strong indication of further U.S. India cooperation in an area that is very crucial to all of us, and that is our energy resources.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. WILSON) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Donald Carter, Pastor, Baptist Temple of Alamance County, Burlington, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

May we pray.

Heavenly Father, thank You for our forefathers who carved out of the wilderness a great Nation, a Nation that has enjoyed the blessings of Almighty God. We acknowledge Your protective and guiding hand upon our Nation during these 223 years.

I request that You give the men and women who are servants of our trust and who represent us understanding of the problems and needs of our country. Give them wisdom to address them. We have sinned as a people and as a Nation. Forgive us of our sins. May these who represent us do what is right, not what is popular, as John Adams said.

May that being who is supreme over all, the Patron of Order, the Fountain of Justice and the Protector of all ages of the world of virtuous liberty, continue His blessings upon this, our Nation.

In Jesus' name I pray.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOME TO REVEREND DR. DONALD CARTER, BAPTIST TEMPLE OF ALAMANCE COUNTY, BURLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, the gentleman who opened the House today, Reverend Carter, I came to know him, his wife, Betty, his son David, and the Baptist Temple Church family when I initially was a candidate for Congress in 1984.

Don and his church family and the entire Alamance County Ministerial Association serve their county well, and we are honored to have Don to open our service today.

The bad news is I no longer represent him. As a result of redistricting, Alamance County was assigned to another Congressional District, and they are now ably represented by the gentleman to whom I yield.

I am pleased to yield, Madam Speaker, to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I also welcome Pastor Carter and his wife Betty. In fact, in every community, we find families that we represent. Pastor Carter represents a family in Burlington of several hundred of his parishioners that every week turn to him for their spiritual guidance and for the leadership that they need, both personally and professionally. Dr. Carter, we are glad to have you today and your lovely wife.

I also pledge to my dear colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) that I will carry on the good tradition that he has established, not only with the Baptist Temple, but with Alamance County.

TAX CUTS TO BENEFIT ALL TAXPAYERS

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Madam Speaker, we Republicans across the country campaigned last year on the issue of tax relief for working families. We said that Americans are overtaxed, and America agreed. That is why last year more Americans voted for Republicans than voted Democrat in the Congressional elections.

By now it is no surprise that Republicans actually meant what they said.

The House of Representatives under the Republicans have passed tax relief for working families. This is upsetting to many on the left, still locked in the 1960s mentality that demonizes those that save, invest, create jobs, and pay the lion's share of taxes.

Our relief package is fair and balanced. It puts aside \$2 for Social Security and Medicare for every \$1 in tax relief for working families.

It does something foreign to the left that controlled this chamber for 40 years before us. It pays down the national debt by some \$1 trillion, and it cuts taxes so that all taxpaying families will benefit.

The Republican Party is the party of tax relief for working families.

ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS OF HEPATITIS C

(Mr. WEINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, the Queens Courier, a distinguished local newspaper in New York, recently concluded in an exclusive study that they did in this edition that hepatitis C has reached near epidemic proportions in New York City and, in fact, in the Nation as a whole.

The Queens Courier study actually does a great national service to bring our attention to what is an often and unrecognized epidemic: Nearly 4 million Americans have been affected by hepatitis C. As a result, there are almost 10,000 deaths every year in this country, and it causes over \$600 million in medical bills in our country. This is indeed an epidemic, albeit a quiet one. This is particularly poignant to New York City, where there are so many immigrant communities.

Now is the time for not only authorities in New York State, but the Center for Disease Control here in Washington, to finally recognize that hepatitis C has reached a crisis proportion. The Queens Courier has done a very important job by calling this to our attention. Now we in Congress have to take up this call and address the problems of hepatitis C.

NETWORKS NOT COVERING GREENSPAN STATEMENTS PROPERLY

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, today is the first installment of our Media Watch. Media Watch is an effort to cover the stories the networks will not cover, the stories which are distorted by liberals, and the stories which are buried in the back pages for political reasons.

As always, there is a lot to choose from, but I think most people would